

What is claimed is:

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1. A cellulose acetate having at least one
selected from the group consisting of the following
5 features (i), (ii) and (iii):

(i) a part of carboxyl groups binding to at least
one member selected from the group consisting of a cellulose
acetate and a hemicellulose acetate are in an acidic form;

10 (ii) at least one member selected from the group
consisting of an acid having an acid dissociation exponent
pKa of 1.93 to 4.50 in water, an alkali metal salt of said
acid and an alkaline earth metal of said acid is contained;
and

15 (iii) an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal
is contained, wherein the total content of an alkaline metal
and an alkaline earth metal in 1 gram of the cellulose
acetate is from an effective amount to 5.5×10^{-6} equivalent
(in terms of ion equivalent).

20 2. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1,
wherein the total content of an alkaline metal and an
alkaline earth metal in 1 gram of the cellulose acetate
is from an effective amount to 2.5×10^{-6} equivalent (in
terms of ion equivalent).

25 3. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1,
wherein the total content of an alkaline metal and an
alkaline earth metal in 1 gram of the cellulose acetate
is from an effective amount to 1×10^{-6} equivalent (in terms

of ion equivalent).

4. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein pKa value of said acid is 2.0 to 4.4.

5. A cellulose acetate according to Claims 1, wherein the acid is at least one organic acid selected from an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid, an aliphatic polycarboxylic acid, a hydroxycarboxylic acid and an amino acid or derivatives thereof.

6. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein the acid is at least one organic acid selected from a saturated or unsaturated C₁₋₃ monocarboxylic acid, a saturated or unsaturated C₂₋₄ dicarboxylic acid, a C₁₋₆ hydroxycarboxylic acid and an amino acid.

7. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein the acid is at least one member selected from formic acid, haloacetic acid, halopropionic acid, acrylic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, fumaric acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and citric acid.

8. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein the total content of the acid and the metal salt thereof is 1×10^{-3} to 3×10^{-5} mole relative to 1 gram of the cellulose acetate.

9. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein the total content of the acid and the metal salt thereof is 1×10^{-8} to 2×10^{-5} mole relative to 1 gram of the cellulose acetate.

10. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein the total content of the acid and the metal salt thereof is 1×10^{-7} to 1×10^{-5} mole relative to 1 gram of the cellulose acetate.

5 11. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, which has the slurry pH of 4.5 to 5.5.

12. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, which has the slurry pH of 4.8 to 6.0.

10 13. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, which has the average degree of acetylation of 43.7 to 62.5%.

14. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, which is produced by using sulfuric acid as a catalyst for acetylation and/or aging.

15. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein a cellulose as a raw material is at least one selected from a wood pulp and a linter pulp.

20 16. A cellulose acetate according to Claim 1, wherein a cellulose as a raw material is at least one selected from a hardwood pulp and a softwood pulp.

17. A method of producing a cellulose acetate claimed in Claim 1, which comprises:

25 (i) mixing a cellulose acetate and an acid having an acid dissociation exponent pKa of 1.93 to 4.50 in water or the metal salt thereof;

(ii) treating a cellulose acetate with said acid or said metal salt thereof; or

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(iii) adding an alkali metal salt of said acid or an alkaline earth metal salt of said acid to a cellulose acetate such that the total content of said alkali metal and said alkaline earth metal in 1 gram of the cellulose acetate is ~~from an effective amount to~~ 5.5×10^{-6} equivalent, ^{or less} in term of ion equivalent.

18. ~~A dope containing the cellulose acetate according to Claim 1.~~

19. A dope containing (a) a cellulose acetate and (b) at least one member selected from an acid having a acid dissociation exponent pKa of 1.93 to 4.50 in water, an alkaline metal salt of the acid and an alkaline earth metal salt of the acid.

20. A method for improving releasability of a film from a support or spinnability with using the dope according to Claim 18 or 19.

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